

AGENDA	DIALOGUE	ACTION ITEMS
I. Chair Karin Olsen Billings called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM		
a. Roll Call	<p><u>Commission Members Present:</u> Chair Karin Olsen Billings, Bob Nystuen, Heather Margolis, Jackie Girard, Kevin Myhre, Wendy Nicolai, Charles Wetherington, Danette Rector, Doug Mitchell, Jim Larson</p> <p><u>Guests and Staff Present:</u> OCS- Dan Ritter, Sunni Hitchcock, Sarah Sadowski, CNCS – Wendy Spencer, Jenny Mock, Anna Yeagle, MT Conservation Corps – Jono McKinney, Prevention Resource Center VISTA – Abby Zent</p>	
b. December 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes	Chair Olsen Billings called for a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Nystuen moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Nicolai seconded, motion carried, minutes approved.	<i>December 15, 2014 Minutes approved.</i>
c. Announcements	<p>Chair Olsen-Billings made the following announcements: Welcomed Wendy Spencer CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service</p> <p>Invited Commissioners to participate in the Symposium service projects. She also invited Commissioners to attend the other keynotes and speakers of the Symposium.</p>	
Remarks from Wendy Spencer, CEO, CNCS 1115a	FY16 Presidential budget proposal brings an overall 12% increase; this would be a 27% increase (approx. \$89 million) for AmeriCorps which could be 90,000 members, would also result in increase of \$1 million nationwide for State Commissions (approx. increase of \$25,000 for many Commissions). However, rural states already receiving the minimum, such as Montana may not see an increase from that, as the formula that determining funding may not change. Senior Corps is recommended for level funding, with the move toward competitive process continuing. Social Innovation Fund is recommended at level	

	<p>funding. The Appropriations Committee is chaired by Congressman Tom Cole, Oklahoma. Wendy reported that Tom supports national service and is a disaster survivor.</p> <p>Wendy encouraged the Montana Commission to approach grants and asked that we invest in the highest and greatest need. Wendy suggested that we consider Governor's priorities, the Legislative priorities, Mayors, and issues unique to Montana.</p> <p>Wendy reported that there are 11 finalists for the Operation AmeriCorps funding notice. Wendy wants Montana to have an Operation AmeriCorps program and encouraged Montana Commission to pick an issue for transformational change and to utilize Operation AmeriCorps as a mechanism for holistic changes. Operation AmeriCorps combines more than one stream of service and utilizes the combined effort toward longitudinal change. Wendy also encouraged Montana to engage faith-based volunteers.</p> <p>Wendy also reported on the Veterans & Military Families Focus Area. CNCS is working on a national pinning ceremony. CNCS is considering an event, possibly around Veterans Day, to recognize Veterans in service, and efforts that provide service to Veterans & Military families.</p> <p>Mayors Day is April 7, 2015. Wendy reported that this effort helps CNCS demonstrate support for service to Congress. There are 1,760 Mayors and Commissions signed onto Mayors Day. Those signed on in 2014 will have the option to opt out and if they do not opt out, will be listed on the website for 2015.</p> <p>Wendy reported on the Mayors Challenge to end Veterans' homelessness, particularly in Phoenix, AZ and in Salt Lake City, UT. Wendy reported that these major US cities are making demonstrated impacts by focusing on this issue and are reducing homelessness among Veterans.</p>	
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II. Governor's Office of Community Service Updates		
a. Communications Update	<p>Dan Ritter provided an update on communication and outreach on behalf of Marissa Perry:</p> <p>ServeMontana Awards – Award ceremony once again a huge success. Around 120 joined us in the Old Supreme Court Chambers Feb. 13, 2015. Governor Bullock presented seven awards to outstanding individuals and organizations for their service work throughout the state. First Lady Lisa Bullock presented three awards to school districts for their excellence in serving kids school breakfast. Articles were posted to our Facebook page highlighting the award ceremony.</p> <p>Youth Serve Montana Scholarships – Deadline to apply April 15, 2015. \$1,000 scholarships for up to 100 high school seniors who volunteered 100 hours or more in the past year. Commissioners, please share this opportunity with organizations in your area.</p> <p>Fight Childhood Hunger Week April 13-19, 2015. The 18 members of the Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership are planning projects in their schools and communities during this week. The Governor and First Lady will be attending an event at Helena Middle School on Monday of that week, and attending the 5K Fund Run in Great Falls on Saturday.</p>	
c. Financial Update	<p>Sunni Hitchcock provided an update on OCS financials:</p> <p>In January, received our Administrative grant of \$250,000 with a match requirement of that same dollar amount.</p> <p>Received Homeland Security grant of \$128,209 in October from the Dept. of Military Affairs; which does not have a match requirement. Current balance is \$81,000 with spending available until the end of September.</p> <p>Our 2015 Formula Allocation is consistent at level funding of \$600,000. We anticipate the RFP process to begin late April.</p> <p>Competitive applications were submitted in January 2015 and are going through the steps at CNCS for funding consideration. We should</p>	

	<p>receive award announcements in May.</p> <p>Legislature Update – Although the process is only half way through and still needing to go through the Senate, our office anticipates full funding from HB2 – bringing our General Fund amount to \$148,000 (previously at \$128,000).</p>	
d. AmeriCorps Update	<p>Sarah Sadowski provided the following AmeriCorps updates:</p> <p>Brief introduction, Sarah started as OCS Grants Manager on Feb 9, 2015. Sarah is a two year VISTA Alumni with an abundance of National Service experience.</p> <p>Sarah thanked the group for participating in the Symposium for the next 3 days.</p> <p>Sarah is working on multiple progress reports, the formula RFP and compliance monitoring.</p>	
e. Ready Montana Update	<p>ReadyMontana update, Dan Ritter on behalf of Betsy Miller:</p> <p>Working with Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation and FireSafe MT to plan Wildfire Awareness Month in May 2015. We're organizing a media event along with guidance for several community events across the state.</p> <p>April 30th is designated as "day of action" through a new FEMA initiative called America's PrepareAthon. This initiative encourages all citizens, businesses, schools, etc. to participate in disaster preparedness activities at least twice a year. In Montana, we'll be working with several organizations to focus on business readiness this spring.</p>	
III. ServeMT Symposium	<p>March 11-13, 2015, starting today!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Project Information – approx. 260 AmeriCorps State and VISTA members will be participating in a city-wide food drive in Helena today. Please join us for the launch with First Lady Lisa Bullock on the front steps of the capitol at 1:30pm. Following, we can serve alongside the AmeriCorps members. If you are interested, just find Marissa or Betsy and they will set you up with a team and project. 	
CNCS State Office Update	CNCS updates provided by CNCS CEO, Wendy Spencer	
Commissioner Reports and Updates		

a. Commissioners' recent volunteer engagements	Standing agenda item, no report due to time with Wendy Spencer. Please be prepared to report on engagements at the June meeting.	
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	
Public Comment	Public comment was called for by Chair Billings and none was made.	
Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm	

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